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Chairman: Mr. Bhattarai (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Nepal)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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In the absence of Mr. Effah-Apenteng (Ghana), Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 123: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (A/56/7/Add.10; A/C.5/56/25/Add.4)

United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (A/C.5/56/25/Add.5)

1. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (A/C.5/56/25/Add.4) and the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (UNTOP) (A/C.5/56/25/Add.5). The Security Council had endorsed the establishment of UNAMA in its resolution 1401 (2002) of 28 March 2002. All the existing United Nations elements in Afghanistan were to be integrated into the Mission, which would be headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan. The Mission's mandate would entail fulfilling the tasks and responsibilities, including those relating to human rights, the rule of law and gender issues, entrusted to the United Nations in the Bonn Agreement; promoting national reconciliation and rapprochement throughout the country, through the good offices role of the Special Representative; and managing all United Nations humanitarian relief, recovery and reconstruction activities in Afghanistan, under the overall authority of the Special Representative and in coordination with the Interim Authority and successor administrations of Afghanistan. The proposed structure of the Mission would comprise the Office of the Special Representative; two "pillars", namely, pillar I, political affairs, and pillar II, relief, recovery and reconstruction, each headed by a Deputy Special Representative; and an administrative and logistical component. The Mission would be headquartered in Kabul, with regional offices based in seven other cities and liaison offices in Islamabad and Tehran. It would not have any uniformed personnel, with the exception of five military and four civilian police advisers. The total staffing proposed for the Mission was 615 posts. The staffing distribution by unit was set out in annex III to the report.

2. The total requirements for the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 amounted to $44.4 million net. Taking into account the resources already appropriated for the operations to be subsumed within UNAMA and the expenditures incurred in 2002 prior to 1 April, the net additional requirements of UNAMA amounted to $43 million. The Secretary-General proposed that the balance of $34.3 million remaining in the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3 (Political affairs) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 should be used for UNAMA and that an additional appropriation of $8.7 million should be approved under section 3, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213. In addition, an appropriation of $3.9 million would be required under section 32 (Staff assessment), offset by a corresponding amount in the estimates of income, under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

3. UNTOP had been established in June 2000 with the support of the Security Council, as expressed in its Presidential statement (S/PRST/2000/9), in response to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish an office for post-conflict peace-building in Tajikistan, and following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT). The operation of the Office had been extended in May 2001 for a further period of one year. In a letter dated 26 April 2002 (S/2002/501), the Secretary-General had informed the Council that, in view of the very positive role played by UNTOP, as well as the country's continuing need for support in its peace-building efforts, it was his intention to continue the activities of the Office for a further 12-month period, to the end of May 2003. In his reply of 1 May 2002 (S/2002/502), the President of the Council had informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Council had taken note with appreciation of the information provided in his letter and of his intention to continue the activities of UNTOP for another year.

4. The resource requirements of UNTOP for the 12-month period from 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003 were estimated at $2 million net. That amount would provide for salaries and other staff costs for 10 international

and 21 local staff, operational requirements, and other operating expenses. The Secretary-General proposed that the General Assembly should approve for UNTOP, after taking into account the unencumbered balance of $221,900 under the existing appropriation, an amount of $1,855,700 under section 3 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213. A further appropriation of $236,300 would be required under section 32 (Staff assessment), offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

5. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed resource requirements of UNAMA was contained in document A/56/7/Add.10. The Advisory Committee recommended in paragraph 34 of the report, that the General Assembly should approve a charge of $34.3 million for the Mission against the balance remaining in the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3 (Political affairs) of the programme budget for the current biennium, that provision would then be exhausted. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee further recommended that the Assembly should approve the additional appropriation of $8.7 million under section 3, as well as an additional appropriation of $3.9 million under section 32 (Staff assessment), to be offset by a corresponding amount in the estimates of income, under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). In paragraph 35, the Advisory Committee recommended that all the posts requested should be approved on a provisional basis and without prejudice to such recommendations as it might make on the basis of the information provided in the next budget submission for the Mission in Afghanistan. The reasons for that recommendation were described in the same paragraph.

6. The report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed resource requirements of UNTOP was contained in an oral statement, the text of which had been distributed to delegations. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve for UNTOP an additional appropriation of up to $2,092,000 gross under section 3 (Political affairs) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for the period from 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003, on the understanding that such assessment as might be necessary would be considered by the Assembly in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the same procedure should be followed for UNAMA.

Conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (A/56/7/Add.11; A/C.5/56/42)

7. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (A/C.5/56/42), which contained revised estimates under sections 2 (General Assembly affairs and conference services) and 37 D (Office of Central Support Services) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The Counter-Terrorism Committee had been established on 28 September 2001, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The programme of work of the Committee had been endorsed by the Council on 23 October 2001. A small secretariat had been established in the Department of Political Affairs to provide substantive support for the Committee. The related expenditure had been authorized under General Assembly resolution 54/252 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures. The resources for the substantive servicing of the Committee for the biennium 2002-2003 had been requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (A/C.5/56/25), and the related provision had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/255 and 56/254 D.

8. In view of the lack of experience and information on the servicing requirements of the Committee, it had not been possible to estimate requirements in the biennium 2002-2003 for conferencing and central support services for the meetings of the Committee. Given the priority attached to the activities of the Committee, conference and other support services had been provided during the first quarter of 2002 by utilizing existing appropriations for 2002. However, in the light of the magnitude of the servicing required, it had become apparent that the current ad hoc servicing arrangement could not continue without a detrimental effect on other intergovernmental meetings

programmed in the calendar of conferences and meetings. Therefore, in order to provide services for the meetings of the Committee, as outlined in its work programme, and at the same time maintain the appropriate services for meetings of other bodies, an additional appropriation of $10.5 million was sought. The additional workload arising from servicing of the Committee was described in paragraphs 11 to 20 of the report.

9. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (A/56/7/Add.11), said that the Advisory Committee had noted that estimates had been prepared without the benefit of experience with respect to the servicing requirements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Because of the timing of the submission of the report of the Secretary-General and Fifth Committee meetings, the Advisory Committee had not had sufficient time to analyse the statistics provided in the report of the Secretary-General. Its preliminary impression, however, from both the report and the hearing, was that many of the statistical indicators might represent the worst-case scenario and that adequate experience by the end of the year should provide information on the future needs of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. For that reason, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment of up to $7.5 million and that such additional appropriations as might be required should be dealt with in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

10. In paragraph 10 of its report, the Advisory Committee made some recommendations concerning the reports that had been submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). He read out the paragraph and said that "volume of the reports" should have been "volume of the communications". He did not understand why the Secretariat had amended the text without consulting the Advisory Committee, which had drafted the paragraph very carefully, and would request that a corrigendum be issued.

11. **Mr. Soto** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, and, in addition, Liechtenstein, said that the fight against global terrorism remained a top priority for the European Union, which fully endorsed the recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on proposed measures to enhance the physical security of United Nations premises and to provide for the effective functioning of UNAMA.

12. The European Union supported the full and timely provision of all necessary conference and support services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and believed that the differences between the estimates of the Secretary-General and those of the Advisory Committee stemmed from the fact that the preparation of the revised budget had been based on assumptions that could not be justified by previous or existing practice.

13. While the European Union remained committed to resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences and recognized the importance of the conference and support services provided to the organs and committees of the Organization and to regional groups, it believed that Member States should abide by budget resolutions and levels approved by the General Assembly immediately before the biennium to which they applied. While exceptions could be made for unforeseen and urgent activities, such as the enhancement of security at the United Nations or UNAMA, conference and support services did not seem to fall into that category.

14. The European Union had for many years advocated strict adherence to the mandated hours of conference servicing and supported the current practice of the Secretariat in that regard. Such discipline made for more focused meetings and more efficient allocation of resources, which, in turn, freed other resources to address the needs of the full membership of the Organization.

15. The European Union shared some of the concerns voiced by other delegations and regional groups with regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of resolution 56/242 on pattern of conferences (A/56/919). It, too, was disappointed that the report did not propose creative solutions to remaining problems or analyse possible efficiencies or further productivity improvements. It therefore believed that, rather than engage in debate on

the report, those matters should be considered later in the year when the Committee had the benefit of the outcomes of various revisions made under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General.

16. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) said that his delegation supported the activities of UNAMA and endorsed the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee. He asked how General Assembly resolutions 41/213, 42/411, 49/233 and 56/254 applied to the financing of the Mission.

17. **Mr. Tootoonchian** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the approval by the Advisory Committee of the proposed resource requirements of UNAMA was very encouraging. He trusted that the provision of the requested resources would enable the Mission to fulfil its mandate to rebuild Afghanistan. Reconstruction was a prerequisite for the re-establishment of an atmosphere of peace and security. Strong complementarity between the humanitarian and development activities of the Mission and its political activities would help to ensure stability in Afghanistan. There was also a need for concrete action to strengthen the central Government. Those objectives could be achieved only with intensive international cooperation.

18. His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's concern at the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on UNAMA. The Secretariat was nevertheless to be commended for preparing a budget proposal for the Mission in such a short time. He had a number of questions regarding the administrative and budgetary arrangements for the Mission, the mechanism for coordination among participating agencies, the role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the rental of premises for the liaison offices, the projected level of daily subsistence allowance, the provisions for the intensification of drug control activities and efforts towards voluntary repatriation of refugees, and the salaries of local staff, which he would raise in informal consultations.

19. **Ms. Buchanan** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that those delegations concurred with the request of the Advisory Committee for additional information on coordination in pillar II of UNAMA, and noted in that regard that the scale and scope of the Mission, the number of associated organizations located in Kabul and the need for close coordination favoured a common services approach. She joined the Advisory Committee in requesting further information on what circumstances would hinder co-location of staff, as well as on co-location and the application of common services in future proposals. In the context of the "light footprint" of the Mission and the delegations' commitment to the safety and security of Mission staff, she further inquired as to whether its security provisions as presently constituted would be adequate. Lastly, she expressed the delegations' acceptance of the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee and their readiness to support the approval of the budget of UNAMA from the funds for special political missions, with the residual amount to be funded from an additional appropriation.

20. With regard to conference and support services for the Counter-Terrorism Committee, while the delegations supported the work of that Committee, the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/56/42) had failed to provide the substantive information needed to support the request for additional resources in the amount of $10.5 million. She requested clarification of actual expenditure relative to the overall approved budget and noted that provision of that information in the form of a quarterly report would be useful. She looked forward to receiving the results of the comparative review of productivity standards in the Secretariat and agreed that a proactive approach should be adopted in addressing the "demand side" of the conference servicing equation.

21. More guidance and advice from the Advisory Committee on the format of reporting could be useful in addressing the sheer volume of documentation provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and thereby relieve some of the pressure on conference servicing. In that regard, the delegations supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Security Council should confirm that information initially supplied need not be repeated in subsequent reports. Lastly, she expressed the delegations' preference that the proposal for additional resources for the Counter-Terrorism Committee should be considered in the context of the first performance report. The delegations on whose behalf she spoke would support a request for additional funds if the need for them were clearly established at that time.

22. **Mr. Iossifov** (Russian Federation) said that, while the reports before the Committee and the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/848), which

had been introduced at the Committee's 57th meeting, addressed diverse issues, all contained proposals for additional appropriations to a budget that had already been approved. The activities outlined in the reports were directly connected with the strengthening of the role of the United Nations as an indispensable tool for the maintenance of international peace and security and the mobilization of its unique resources to meet new challenges and counteract new threats, first and foremost, terrorism. While the additional appropriations sought were fully justified and related to expenditures that could not have been foreseen six months earlier, they must not be allowed to set a precedent, since increases in the level of the programme budget undermined Member States' ability to plan the levels of their contributions over the biennium. He noted, in that connection, that budget performance reports played a crucial role in determining actual levels of expenditure and forthcoming needs and urged the Secretariat to seek to achieve a balanced budget through prioritization and efficiency gains.

23. Following the events of 11 September 2001, the strengthening of the security and safety of United Nations premises had become a matter of urgency. His delegation therefore welcomed the proposals made by the Secretary-General in document A/56/848 and endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation in document A/56/7/Add.9 that the General Assembly should appropriate the amount of $57.8 million for the biennium 2002-2003 for the implementation of measures to that end, with the understanding that any additional assessment that might be required should be considered by the Assembly in the context of its review of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

24. With regard to UNAMA, his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations in document A/56/7/Add.10 concerning the arrangements for the financing of the Mission and concurred that there was a need for an in-depth examination of the staffing structure and grade levels of the Mission personnel. It also agreed that, in order to reduce expenditures, full utilization should be made of the assets, including vehicles and communication equipment, of missions that were being scaled down or closed.

25. Concerning the additional requirements for conference and support services for the Counter-Terrorism Committee, his delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee's observation in document A/56/7/Add.11 that there was a need for greater efficiency and economy in the servicing of the Committee. It also supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into commitments of up to $7.5 million related to the provision of conference and central support services to the Committee in 2002 and that such additional appropriations as might be necessary should be dealt with in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

26. The Russian Federation strongly supported Tajikistan's peace-building efforts. It recognized the need for a continuing United Nations presence in that country, following the withdrawal of UNMOT. His delegation therefore supported the proposal by the Secretary-General to continue the activities of UNTOP for a further 12-month period and the provision of the necessary resources.

27. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation did not doubt the importance of providing translation and interpretation services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and fully understood that the pattern of conferences for 2002-2003 had been established without taking into account the Counter-Terrorism Committee or the resources required to service it. There were major differences between the Secretary-General's and the Advisory Committee's views on the financing arrangements. The Secretary-General believed that financing should be in accordance with paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213, while the Advisory Committee would require the Secretary-General to request authority in the context of the first performance report. His delegation would appreciate more information on the basis for the Advisory Committee's recommendation of $7.5 million and believed that the Committee should be informed of the programme budget implications of the Advisory Committee recommendations before any resolution on the matter was adopted. He also wondered whether there was any precedent for the General Assembly formulating the type of recommendation to the Security Council that was contained in paragraph 10 of the Advisory Committee's report.

28. **Ms. Wahhab** (Indonesia) said that her delegation noted with concern the practice during the first quarter

of 2002 of utilizing existing appropriations for 2002 to provide conference and central support services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee for meetings that were not part of the calendar approved under General Assembly resolution 56/242 and which therefore had not been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The inability of other mandated bodies to complete their work during that period, owing to a lack of sufficient flexibility for holding meetings approved under that resolution, reflected unequal treatment of meetings of United Nations bodies in terms of conference and support services. She therefore joined other delegations in requesting further clarification from the Secretariat as to why such flexibility was provided for some meetings and not for others.

29. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) said that he shared the concern of other delegations at the differences between the Secretary-General's and the Advisory Committee's estimates for additional requirements and would appreciate more details in that regard, particularly statistics, which could be provided during informal consultations.

30. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) asked whether the proposal to approve a considerable number of high-level posts for UNAMA was consistent with General Assembly resolutions on human resources, which expressed concern at the inverted pyramid in the staffing table.

31. Referring to paragraph 4 of the report of the Advisory Committee on conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee (A/56/7/Add.11) she asked from which meetings of other intergovernmental organs resources had been taken in order to provide conference services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, an organ that was highly unpredictable, given that 13 of its 55 scheduled meetings had been cancelled. She would appreciate clarification of the Secretariat's thinking and of the criteria it had used in proposing additional resources for the Counter-Terrorism Committee when similar requests by the Group of 77 and China had been denied. Referring to the statement made by the representative of Spain on behalf of the European Union, she said that the priorities of all groups should be given equal treatment, not only those comprised of a few Member States. The Group of 77 and China had had urgent unforeseen requirements but had been unable to hold meetings for lack of resources, which had seriously hampered its work.

32. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, said that, in introducing the item, he had indicated that the estimates had been provided on the basis of limited experience in servicing the Counter-Terrorism Committee. For example, in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General, it was estimated that the Committee would hold four or five meetings per week and generate translation and processing of, on average, 700 pages of documentation per month. Those estimates were not borne out by the actual figures in paragraph 6 of that same report, which indicated that 62 meetings had been held between October 2001 and May 2002. A preliminary look at other figures as well had given the Advisory Committee the impression that some of the estimates were somewhat high. He believed that the request for resources to ensure the servicing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the remainder of 2002 would not have a negative impact on the requests of other intergovernmental bodies, although the Secretariat had not indicated to the Advisory Committee the extent of any negative impact thus far.

33. If the commitment authority of $7.5 million was not sufficient, he trusted that the Secretary-General would review the situation and communicate any problems to the Advisory Committee at its September meeting.

34. If the Syrian request concerning programme budget implications were carried to its ultimate conclusion, it would mean that programme budget implications would have to be provided for every recommendation the Advisory Committee made. It would even be necessary to provide programme budget implications for programme budget implications.

35. As for the Syrian question concerning a precedent for the recommendation, under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly, not the Security Council, was responsible for allocating resources and ensuring their efficient use.

36. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that at the time the Counter-Terrorism Committee was established, the Secretariat had had no way of realizing the eventual scope of the work entailed in its programme. It had thus been forced to use funds originally intended for

the servicing of future meetings to address the workload but could not continue that practice without adversely affecting the work of all other Committees of the General Assembly and Security Council. Unless additional resources were made available, it was clear that cutbacks in the level of conference and translation services provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee would be unavoidable. Restitution of meetings for regional groups at a normal level and on a continuous basis would cost from $12 million to $15 million per biennium.

37. There was no need for further statements of programme budget implications because, according to long-standing procedure, the sovereign decisions of the Fifth Committee on proposals submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General were made on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, which already took all the relevant facts into account.

38. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation was fully satisfied with the assurances of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that that Committee was ready at any time to review further requests for resources to meet the needs of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and with the recommendations contained in paragraph 10 of the Advisory Committee's report.

39. It appeared that his delegation's position with regard to the need for statements of programme budget implications had been misunderstood. What he meant was that, as the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee sometimes differed, it was important to know the exact impact of decisions adopted and to dispel any ambiguities. In the future, it would be necessary to avoid situations where the Secretariat was unable to cover needs for lack of resources. In the case at hand, his delegation would like assurances that, if approved, the amount of $7.5 million would be sufficient.

40. Lastly, while he agreed in principle with the Advisory Committee's recommendation to reduce the cost of translation/revision through, inter alia, increased use of contractual arrangements, measures should be taken to ensure that the use of such services should not adversely affect the quality of the documentation for the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

41. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) said that, in light of the concerns raised in General Assembly resolution 56/242 regarding the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, her delegation wished to repeat its request for information regarding the specific sources of the funds used for the services provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, what meetings of other bodies had been cancelled or had not been serviced as a result, and on what basis the relevant decisions had been taken.

42. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that to date no specific meetings had been deprived of resources as a result of the shortfall; rather, the Secretariat had taken temporary assistance funds originally earmarked for meetings scheduled for the second half of 2002 and applied them to translating the documentation for the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

43. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) repeated his request for an assurance that the proposed amount of $7.5 million would indeed cover the costs of conference services to be provided to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

44. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that the original estimate had been $10 million, but in the light of uncertainty regarding the number of meetings still required, it was the view of the Advisory Committee that a commitment of $7.5 million should be sufficient, pending further examination in the performance report.

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/56/818, A/56/826 and A/56/946)

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (A/56/900 and A/56/948)

45. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance report of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/56/818), said that expenditures for the Mission during the reporting period had amounted to $46 million gross against an appropriation of $49.3 million gross, leaving an unencumbered balance of $3.3 million. That balance had resulted mainly from reduced requirements owing to the suspension of the activities of the Identification Commission and a lower level of deployment of civilian personnel than originally projected.

46. The proposed budget for MINURSO for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/56/826) amounted to $41.5 million gross. The Mission's staffing requirements were set out in section VIII of the report and the General Assembly was being requested to appropriate the amount of $41.5 million gross for the maintenance of the Mission and to assess that amount at the monthly rate of $3.5 million gross, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.

47. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) (A/56/900), he said that of the $89.3 million in Mission assets, $29 million had been transferred to other missions or to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, $31 million had been disposed of in the Mission area, and $28.4 million had been reported as written-off/lost. Asset disposal had been carried out in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A, and the approval of the General Assembly was being requested for the donation of assets with a total inventory value of $235,800 and a residual value of $81,700 to various United Nations agencies and non-governmental bodies, as detailed in annex IV to the report.

48. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on financing of MINURSO (A/56/946), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the unencumbered balance of $3.3 million gross and the $2.5 million in other income for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 should be credited to Member States in a manner to be decided by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee further recommended an appropriation of $41.5 million gross to be assessed at a monthly rate of $3.5 million gross should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of MINURSO beyond 31 July 2002.

49. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on financing of MONUA (A/56/948), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the requests contained in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/900).

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.